GUARANTEED WEEKLY CIRCULATION—20,000 COPIES.

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 22. SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

WAR, WORK AND THE FOOD SUPPLY: WHAT WOMEN WANT.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd, Great Demonstration

At EAST INDIA DOCK GATES, Poplar, 4 p.m.

Speakers:

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, JOHN SCURR, Mrs. WALKER, Mrs. DRAKE and others.

To demand that the Government shall control the food supplies in the interests of all, and give votes to women. To arrange for a deputation of working women to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Aug, 16th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Paterson.
8 p.m.—Bow, The Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road—Mrs. Walker, Miss Grimes; Chair: Miss Paterson.
Monday, Aug 17th, 3 p.m.—Bow, The Women's Hall—Member's Meeting.
8.30 p.m.—South Hackney, Swiss Cottage, —Mrs. Walker.
8.30 p.m.—Bow, The Women's Hall, Speakers' Class.
8 p.m.—Freemason's Road—Miss Somers.
Tuesday, Aug. 18th, 3 p.m.—Hackney, 30 Churchill Road—Mrs. Temple Bird.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates.
Wednesday, Aug. 19th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St. & Charles St., Bromley.
Thursday, Aug. 20th, 3 p.m.—319 E. India Dock Rd., Poplar—Women's Meeting —Mrs. Bradley.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, 124 Barking Rd.—Miss Feek.
8p.m.—Bromley, Knapp Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Bow, The Women's Hall—Choir practice.
Friday, Aug. 21st, 8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.

STRANDED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

At the Women's Hall, on Sunday, August 9th, we regretted to have to announce that our speaker, Miss Georgina Brackenbury, who had gone abroad to recover from a serious illness brought on by too much speaking for Votes for Women, was, with her mother, stranded in Germany and unable to return. The thought of our own friends and relatives in foreign countries, surrounded by peoples with whom we are at war, must make us realise the unfortunate plight of Germans and other foreigners who are in England at this time. We in East London khow that many of these people have lived with us as friendly neighbours for years. Some of them are political refugees, who, because they have dared to try to get reforms in their own autocratically governed countries, have been obliged to fly here for safety. Let us preserve our self-control at this trying time, and endeavour to see that these people are not made to bear the blame of the wrongs which are being done in this war, which they have no more power to prevent than we.

British women who have married foreigners have lost their British citizenship. If their husbands are Germans they and their children must be registered as alien citizens of a hostile country, although they have never left their native land. This is a hard day for them.

Many Germans object to the war. Mr. Rennie Smith, of Nelson, Lancashire, reports that at a great anti-war meeting in Berlin the police made a bayonet charge on the crowd. All the Socialist and other political clubs of Germany are being suppressed by the Government.

The oppressed Poles in despotic Russia are finding the war to be a not unmixed evil for, in the hope of keeping them quiet, the tyrannical Russian Government is allowing them to use their own language and to exercise local self-government.

WORKING WOMEN AND THE WAR.

By MELVINA WALKER, *a docker's wife.*

War is on us, and we working women are asking ourselves—What are we going to do? Women are to be seen standing at their doors in our streets discussing food prices; husbands and sons thrown out of employment; daughters at home whose firms have shut down owing to the war; some have husbands who are reservists, and who have been called to the colours, and their sorrowful and drawn faces speak; sleepless nights and untold agony which women are called upon to endure during war time; and on top of it all is the great worry which always falls to the lot of working women, in how they are going to keep the roof over the little children's heads. Women are saying: "Thank God, the children have gone back to school, it is a blessing to get them out of the way *for a while.*" Note the "for a while" which means, in spite of all the worry which children mean to working mothers, they would not like to lose them, their love for them is too great; but to have children around you in a small kitchen all day is enough to drive any woman crazy. As man-made laws are to-day, there is nothing but the streets to drive them into, and we know too well the street is a death trap for our children, and so we say they are ever so much better at school. We wonder whether they are going to feed them during the war. It is very little they get—1½d. a head—to be spent on the workers' children, and some of these little children their fathers have bravely left in the charge of mothers, to fight for their country. We cannot help thinking of the children who attend Eton and Harrow Colleges. We wonder whether 1½d. a head is sufficient for their dinner. No, the men who sit in Parliament and legislate for the working class, see to it that their children's dinners at Eton and Harrow cost far more than 1½d. a head.

We almost think we are in the midst of another great Dock Strike—only this is far worse—for a great number of transport workers are torn from their occupations and their homes to join the Reserves, and we women are left alone.

How strange! British transport workers—trade union men—are called upon to shoot down German transport workers, and it is not so very long ago, in the time of our industrial war—I mean the great Dock Strike—when we were fighting the large ship owners, we received with joy the news that these same men had sent us £5,000 to help us in our fight for better conditions. We said we would never forget their kindness, let us keep our word by treating all those German workers who are left behind in our midst with civility. Our duty at this time is to impress upon all that the working class do not want war. Had all women the power of the vote we feel sure there would be no war. What can we do now, in spite of being voteless? Let working women demand of Mr. Asquith that the Government take over the food supplies, so that we may have food for our children at normal prices. Our children cannot starve; and he must also see that the Government must find work for the men who are thrown out of work through the war. If Mr. Asquith will not do these things we must start our "No Rent" strike in real earnest. Why take the food from our children's mouths and give it to the landlord? If we at this crisis show fight for our children with the same determination as our brave ones are doing at the war, if we all stand together, no Government can conquer us. Let us demand this of Mr. Asquith, and in the meantime let us prepare ourselves for the "No Vote, No Rent." Fill up the coupons you see in this paper and send it to Miss S. Pankhurst Remember we working women can never help ourselves until we get the power of the vote! In this "No Vote, No Rent" we Suffragettes want to help you. We have learned through persecution to stand by each other, and you must do the same. Don't delay—send in your names at once.

Where some of the £4,000,000 Housing Grant is needed.

RELIEF COMMITTEES.

The President of the Local Government Board has appointed three committees to co-operate with the Cabinet Committee on Prevention and Relief of Distress. On the large committee for London two women have been appointed—Mrs. Sidney Webb and Miss Adler. No women have as yet been placed on the committees for agricultural districts, and for housing in urban and rural districts. It is most important that women and especially working women, who have the knowledge born of experience of what is required, should be appointed to these committees without delay.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mrs. Scurr have been appointed to the Central Relief Committee for the Bow, Poplar and Bromley district. This committee will meet for the first time on Monday when district sub-committees will be appointed.

Great distress has already fallen upon the poor in this district, and the extraordinary delay in organising the relief committees has caused many to go hungry. Women come constantly to the Women's Hall to ask advice, and our canvassers hear piteous stories of distress at almost every house.

SOME HARD CASES.

One woman, whose husband is a stevedore thrown out of work through the war, walked over from Poplar to see us. She has two children—one three years, one twelve months old—and is expecting another in three months time. They live in two rooms for which they pay 5s. Another, whose husband is also a docker out of work, has four children—aged six years, four years, two and a-half years, and three months. They pay 5s. a week for three little rooms.

Another woman, who is a widow, has two little children of school age. Her daughter of 15 has been earning 5s., every penny of which she gave to the mother, but is now

(*Continued on page 87, col. 1.*)

DEPUTATION TO ASQUITH AND LLOYD GEORGE.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has written on behalf of the E.L.F.S. to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George asking them each to receive a deputation of East London working women who will put forward the following demands with a practical knowledge of of their case.

OUR DEMANDS.

(1) That during the war the food supply shall be controlled by the Government in the interests of all the people, in order that all may feed or starve together, without regard to wealth or social position. To make sure that the food supply is properly controlled, we demand that working women shall be called into consultation in fixing the prices to be charged for food, and the way in which the food shall be distributed.

(2) That committees with Governmental power shall be formed to provide employment for men and women at trade union rates; women to be paid at equal rates with men for equal work.

(3) That the Moratorium be extended to rent and debts under £5 as well as to debts over £5, as it is of vital importance that homes shall be kept together, and the poor who have contracted debts under £5, which are large in proportion to their income, need this relief as much or more than the rich.

(4) That working women shall be placed on all committees for fixing food prices, and for providing employment and relief.

(5) That the Parliamentary franchise be immediately granted to women in order that they may help in minimising, as far as possible, the horrors of war.

OUR DUTY.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes has offered what service it can give to the mayors in the districts where its work lies. To lend aid to the relief committees is not a thing for which anyone need wish to take special credit; it is the ordinary instinct of humanity to do what one can at such a time of exceptional crisis and distress. The members of the Federation are mostly poor and busy women; they cannot give so much in money as Duchesses and millionairesses, but they know by experience the needs of working women. The Federation feels that its principal duty is to bring pressure to bear on the Government, which has much greater power to attend to such matters than any number of private individuals, to secure justice for the women, and especially the working women of the country.

If women had the vote the prospect of securing justice in all such matters would be brighter, but in the meantime the Federation is determined to do what it can to keep the working women's point of view to the fore.

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Deal with our Advertisers.

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A. GLIKSTEN, *Advertisement Manager.*

The

Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents :—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St., Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 22.—Saturday, Aug. 15th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THE WOMEN'S PART.

As soon as it became evident that war was to take place the Government of Holland passed a Bill instructing the mayors of towns and rural districts to buy up the entire food supply at fixed prices, and then to sell the same to the public. This is a most necessary precaution in time of war, as has already been clearly proved by the fact that, as soon as the war started, private traders began on a wide scale to make money out of the war at the expense of the food supply of the people, and especially of the poor; and by the fact that wealthy private individuals at once rushed to buy up large stores of food to hold in reserve, and thus made it impossible for many small buyers with restricted incomes to obtain even the barest necessaries.

Food and Money Grabbers.

The *Times* of Thursday, August 6th, stated :—

For several days past dealers have been supplying money to men and to children, and sending them to buy provisions at East End shops, paying them a small commission on their purchase. Their plan is to make a "corner" in those commodities and thus help to force up prices, from which they hope to profit.

The Government should raid the premises of such people for food as they have raided the houses of Suffragettes.

The *Times* also stated that an important London dairy company raised the price of new laid eggs from 2s. to 3s. a dozen "on account of the war." The war cannot have affected the supply of English new laid eggs.

Large numbers of poor people had little or no food. Others refused to starve quietly. Several shops were looted in Poplar, Hackney and other places. One woman in Bow bought 1 lb. of sugar and put down on the counter the old price. The shopkeeper demanded his sugar back, but the woman refused, and others made the shopkeeper give way.

All this time we were assured that there was no shortage of food, or likelihood of shortage at least for months to come.

The *Times* said :—

Stocks of the principal staples are in hand, or in sight, sufficient to last for several months, and more are constantly coming, nor is there any likelihood of interruption.

On August 5th the Home Office stated that there was wheat enough in the country to last four months, and that further large consignments were steadily coming in; that home grown meat supplies us with 60 per cent. of our needs; that an exceptionally large quantity of foreign meat was in cold storage; and that heavy consignments were on their way here.

The *Times* reported that on August 5th, at a meeting of the London Flour Millers' Association, the prices of flour were unchanged, yet the quartern loaf had risen to 6d. in the shops.

The Government announced that they would deal with the food prices. Mr. Lloyd George called a committee of the principal retailers to advise him, and a list of prices was recommended:

	Usual price.	First recommended price.	Second price, Aug. 11th.
	s d	s d	s d
Granulated sugar	0 2	0 4½	0 3¾
Lump sugar ...	0 2½	0 5	0 4¼
Butter	1 4	1 6	1 6
	(imported, other prices in proportion		
Cheese (colonial)	0 8	0 9½	0 9½
Lard (American)	0 6	0 8	0 8
Margarine	4d. upward	0 10	0 10

The increased prices recommended for bacon were tremendous. The usual price for Continental bacon, when sold in small quantities, is 1s. the lb., for British bacon 1s. 2d. The first recommended list raised these prices to 1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d. a pound, and the second to 1s. 2d. and 1s. 3d. when selling by the side. The prices to the poor, who do not even buy by the pound, are therefore too dear for the majority to buy bacon at all.

Yet we learn that the owner of one of the larger shops in West Ham, who has just bought in a fresh order of margarine, has had it supplied to him at 40s. a cwt., which he usually pays.

We must not forget that these high prices have been fixed when there is as yet no scarcity. If Mr. Lloyd George had put on the advisory committee some of the working women who are the most overwhelmingly numerous buyers in the country, a very different price list would have been made out. The traders, who were alone consulted, acted entirely in the interests of the large dealers and, so far from pushing prices down to their uttermost, actually fixed rates which many of the shopkeepers found it possible to reduce.

Small dealers suffer.

The small shopkeepers are in some cases suffering almost as much as the women who buy from them. They always pay more for their goods than larger dealers because they buy in smaller quantities. Hence, where the large dealers can only make a small profit, the small dealer makes a loss.

A shopkeeper at Old Ford tells us that condensed goat's milk that he used to sell at 1d. a tin, and pay 10d. a dozen for, he had to pay 1s. 3d. a dozen for last week, when he sold it without profit at 1¼d. a tin. Twopenny tins which used to be 1s. 9d. a dozen, now cost him 2s. 6d.

Small shopkeepers, who are being charged 5d. a loaf for bread are selling at 5½d. We are told that one reason for the increased price of flour is due to the heavy insurance now charged by the Government, which is said by a traveller to amount to about 1s. 6d. a sack.

At another small shop in Bow the worried woman in charge gave the following price list on Tuesday, August 11th.

	New price.	Old price.
White lump sugar	6d.	2½d.
,, moist ,,	6d.	2d.
Brown ,, ,,	4d.	1¾d.
Condensed milk	5½d.	4d.
Nestle's ,,	7½d.	6d.
Rice	4d.	2d.
4-lb. loaf	5½d.	5d.
Jam	5d.	4d.

The woman was greatly distressed by the poverty of her customers, and exceedingly worried about her business. She said that she buys her goods from the traveller who calls on Saturdays, so that Monday's drop in prices had not helped her.

Like other small shopkeepers she is allowed no credit and has to pay for everything as she gets it, yet many a time she allows her customers to get into her debt rather than see them want.

Government helped to force up prices.

In regard to the great rise in the price of meat, which took place a week ago, the action of Government buyers appear to be responsible. On Saturday, August 8th, Mr. T. Davies said in the House of Commons that Government representatives had gone to the Meat Market on the previous Tuesday and had offered £80 a ton for meat, which was being sold for £65 a ton. The importers were now withholding meat, knowing that they would get their price for it, and that was the excuse given by dealers for raising the price 3d. per pound.

The Government had the power to insist on getting as much meat as they wanted at the ordinary price. Their buyers acted disgracefully in thus forcing up the price of the people's food and also in adding to the cost of the meat for which the taxpayers must pay.

It is undoubtedly true that prices were put up before any justification for doing so had arisen, but it is also certain that the time will soon come when it will be impossible for private traders to sell certain goods at the old prices, or even at the new, without loss.

Messrs. Whiteley contend that it is already impossible to make enough profit on sugar and lard, if these are sold even at the new prices.

Government must keep prices down.

Yet at a time like the present, when large numbers of breadwinners are being withdrawn to fight in the war, and even larger numbers are being thrown out of work through the disturbance of trade occasioned by war, the need of the people dictates that prices should go down rather than up. It will soon become impossible for private traders to make profits without increasing the price of their goods. For this reason it is necessary for the Government to control the food supply. This can be done without the small shopkeepers being made to suffer, if the Government will buy the food wholesale and sell it to the small retailers at whatever loss to the state may be necessary, on condition that they sell it at certain fixed prices.

On August 8th, the House of Commons rushed through a Government Bill to the effect that :—

If the Board of Trade are of opinion that any foodstuff is being unreasonably withheld from the market they, if so authorised by his Majesty's proclamation, may generally, or as respects any particular kind of foodstuffs, and in a manner provided by the proclamation, take possession of any supplies of foodstuffs to which the proclamation relates, paying to the owners of such foodstuffs such prices as may in default of agreement be decided to be reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, by the arbitration of a judge of the High Court.

This Bill is both too limited and too cumbrous to meet the situation. It is not an occasional prosecution in the High Court of specially flagrant offenders that is wanted, but a proper adjustment of the prices by the aid of Government money. This is one of the best ways to spend that part of the hundred million war fund which is to be devoted to dealing with distress.

Work NOT Charity.

Prevention of distress by the keeping down of prices, so that the people are able to pay for the things they need, and by the provision of employment at a fair rate of pay is by far the best means of helping those who are themselves thrown out of employment by the war or whose breadwinners are withdrawn. When the nation has need to borrow money to relieve distress, the money will hang as a cruel burden on future taxpayers if it is not spent on useful permanent works, but if it is so spent it will be a useful investment.

Let those who have money to give away insist that it shall be used for building and making. Thus they may increase our country's wealth by adding to the number of its useful and beautiful possessions and may save numbers of people from eating the bitter bread of charity.

Just think what it means for self-respecting men and women who have worked hard all their lives to be reduced to hanging around soup kitchens and relief centres begging for food for their children, with no work to do! As many people as possible must be saved from that unhappy plight! We would put forward a very special appeal to leisured people not to start sewing for the soldiers and others whilst women who hitherto have earned their bread by such tasks are left to starve.

There is surely plenty of work that needs doing at a time like this when thousands upon thousands of workers are being called away to war in which so many will meet their death.

If the country's work is carefully reorganised, there must indeed be enough and to spare for all of us that are left to do it!

All must share alike.

But what of the food? Mr. Austen Chamberlain said in the House of Commons on August 6th, amid the cheers of its Members :—

"The common interest of all classes is much greater to everyone than the separate individual interests of any one class. We all stand or fall together, to whatever class we belong."

The *Times* stated that those who collect stocks of food to insure themselves against famine, whilst others are going hungry, are guilty of "a sort of cannibalism."

Let this principle be put into practice. Let the Government control the supply of food, fuel and other necessaries in the interests of all. Let us "stand or fall" together. No one of us has a right to buy a way out from the common horrors into which a country is plunged in time of war.

We women of East London have little to give except our work, but we must remember that work is the gift of all gifts of which our country stands most in need.

The working people and their children are essential to our country. They must not be allowed to starve. They must not be deprived of the work which they and their country need that they shall do.

The duty of Women.

Working women have a great duty before them. They must come forward and insist that their practical knowledge of the conditions of working lives shall be used in managing the nation's affairs at this crisis.

They must insist on being allowed to give their services on Committees for fixing prices and controlling supplies of necessaries and for providing employment. They must insist on obtaining the Parliamentary vote.

For the good of our country we must take up a strong and determined attitude in defence of this principle.

Send in your names for the deputation to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. When the House again meets on August 25th, we must insist that our demands shall be acceded to before the Parliament is prorogued.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

AMNESTY FOR SUFFRAGETTES.

As soon as the war began the French Government released all its political prisoners. For a time British Members of Parliament appealed to McKenna in vain to release the Suffragettes, but at last he said :—

I have advised His Majesty to remit the remainder of the sentences of all persons now undergoing terms of imprisonment for crimes connected with the Suffrage agitation. That course has been taken without solicitation on their part and without requiring any undertaking from them. I have also advised His Majesty to remit the sentences of all persons convicted of assaults and other offences in connection with recent strikes.

I promise to join the "No Vote, No Rent" Strike.

Name .....

Address .....

Many poor mothers will find it impossible to pay rent and buy food during the war. It is better to refuse to pay the rent than to take the food out of your children's mouths.

Volunteers are wanted to prevent intimidation and eviction.

Don't cringe to the landlord. Present a bold front. You have little to lose and everything to gain.

(*Continued from page* 85.)

out of work. Her son, aged 18, gave 8s. of his wages to his mother, but is out of work. An elder son, who is married, gave his mother 2s. a week, but has gone to the war. The mother herself went charing amongst the Jews for 1s. 6d. a day, but they cannot afford to give her any more work because of the war. Her rooms are rented at 5s. 6d. a week, and every moment she is expecting her landlord to turn her out.

One woman's husband, who went to the war on Saturday, August 8th, was a general labourer. They have three young children, the eldest of whom is five years old, and is paralysed. A fourth child will be born within a few weeks. The woman applied for the pay due to Reservists' wives, but was told she must wait till Friday.

A mother of five children is left destitute. Her husband, who is a boot finisher earning 16s. or 17s. a week, has been called to the war. She has to pay 7s. 6d. a week rent for the house and workshop. She sent her marriage certificate to the War Office, but on Wednesday, August 12th, had not got it back. She is worried because she has been told she cannot get her money without it.

Another woman supports three little children and an invalid husband; she is expecting another baby shortly. The Guardians allow her 10s. a week. The four-roomed house in which she lives is rented at 7s., and the Guardians have made her give up taking a lodger, as they say there is only room enough for the family. The woman used to earn 8s. a week by making children's pinafores, but for the last fortnight could get no work. Now she has got a few pinafores to make at 1½d. each. They are so complicated that the first one took her a a whole afternoon to do. She says she will be able to do eight or nine a day when she has "learnt" them, but perhaps by that time there will be no more to do. The distress in this case is largely due to chronic causes.

One woman has been a widow for six years; she is a brush maker, and has hitherto earned 5s. or 6s. a week at her trade, being paid 1s. 6d., 1s. 9d. and 2s. a dozen for brushes. She has now lost her work through the war. One of her daughters, aged 17, was a purse maker, earning 8s. a week at a factory in Hackney Road. On her way to work one morning she was getting off the 'bus, which had stopped, but started again, as her mother says, "before ever the poor child had time to get off." She was thrown to the ground and a cart went over her leg. As a result she was in hospital for ten weeks, and has since been two months at home, and is told that it will be another four or five months before she is fit to do any work. She was told that she is not entitled to sick insurance or free medical attention under the Insurance Act, because this is an accident. She is claiming compensation, and the case is in a solicitor's hands, but cannot be settled because two of the witnesses have been called to the war. A second daughter is aged 15. She works at a tailoring factory in Old Ford Road. She is supposed to be paid 3s. 8d. a week for working from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but is now on short time, and for many weeks past has only brought home 2s. or 2s. 6d. This family of three live in one room, for which they pay 2s. 6d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The *Daily Chronicle* states that measures for dealing with unemployment should be on a bigger scale than anything that the Government has yet foreshadowed. Commercial men say that the Prince of Wales' Fund will be utterly inadequate at its present rate of growth to mitigate the widespread distress.

Sir Alfred Mond estimates that 300,000 persons in this country are engaged in trade with or employed in the manufacture of goods exported to Germany. These will all be thrown out of work.

Portsmouth's leading commercial industry —corset making – is greatly disturbed by the war. Several factories are closing this week, and between 2,000 and 3,000 women and girls will be thrown out of employment.

The stoppage of fishing on the North East coast will bring destitution to the seamen and their families. It will also throw out of work the Scotch fisher lasses and other women engaged in the curing industry.

Amongst the weavers and spinners of wool and cotton in Lancashire and Yorkshire the majority of the employees are women. These people are suffering greatly from unemployment, due to the war.

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED.

To carry on our work we must keep the—

WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

going to fight the Woman's Battle, and keep the needs of the working women to the fore.

WANTED.—More "Dreadnought" sellers. Friends out of work can sell the paper on newsagents terms, i.e., 26 for 8d.

OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

E.L.F.S. members who are serving on the local distress committees, will do their best to secure that, as far as possible, provision for helping those in distress shall take the form of providing adequately paid employment. The E.L.F.S. is also organising an employment bureau of its own, as it is thought that through the medium of the *Dreadnought* certain forms of work may be got for East Londoners from people in other districts, whom it would not otherwise be possible to get in touch with. Miss Maud Joachim has kindly promised to act as secretary to this bureau, and letters should be addressed to her at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow. Many brushmakers in East London are now thrown out of employment, and those who have brushes which require new bristles are especially urged to have this work done at once, instead of putting it off for another day. Many men and women who make bespoke boots and shoes are also out of employment and people who can afford to do so should lay in a new supply of shoes made to measure. Charitably disposed persons should remember that every self-respecting worker prefers properly paid work to doles of money or food.

HOW TO DEAL WITH DISTRESS.

Suggestions made by various well-meaning persons that women of independent means should give their services freely in the making of clothes and other necessaries for the troops, are mistaken, and will do more harm than good. This work should be given to unemployed women and paid for at adequate rates.

Dr. Gilbert Slater suggests that the Game Laws should be suspended, in order that rabbits, hares, and game birds may be freely used for the people's food.

As many girls and boys, under 16, as possible, should be withdrawn from the labour market by giving them temporary maintenance scholarships.

The Board of Education, local education authorities, universities and colleges should at once undertake as many building improvements as possible, in order to provide employment.

The delivery of letters is very irregular at present, owing to the withdrawal of postal servants, who are reservists, to go to the front. Many of the women who are out of work are well qualified to serve as postmistresses, assistants in post offices, and postwomen, like the woman who for many years has delivered the letters at Flamborough, whose photograph was put in the DREADNOUGHT a few weeks ago. The Postmaster-General should take note of this.

The Women's Freedom League are offering to organise a force of policewomen.

An appeal is being made for 30,000 men to swear themselves in as special constables in the Metropolitan police force under Colonel Sir Edward Ward. These men will be expected to serve a minimum of four hours daily without pay, and will be given a truncheon, whistle, notebook, armlet and warrant. They will have power to arrest like the ordinary members of the police force. What are these men wanted for? To protect property. Property will not be endangered at this juncture if the food supply of the people is secured, and if the women Suffragists, who are law breakers because they wish to be law makers, are given the justice which they demand all the women of our country.

The French President is appealing to the women to get in the harvests of France this year. Large numbers of German women are already working in the fields. Some English women are doing the same.

90 Suffolk Street, Poplar, E.
August 9th, 1414.

Dear Editor,—I have read in the Press that numerous ladies and gentlemen owning motor cars are willing to place them at the disposal of the Government for whatever use they were required, if only the Government would tell them how to do it.

We are rapidly approaching the hop picking season and there will be hundreds of families who usually go to this for their only holiday (not much holiday) who will be unable to get there owing to the restricted train service, and cancelling of all cheap fares. I therefore suggest that all those who can spare motors should place them at the disposal of a committee that could be easily got together, to convey poor families to the said hop fields.

No doubt some generous Cartage Contractor would lend a steam waggon to convey utensils, etc.

Believe me, yours,
R. BIRD.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

A friend 'for Sylvia's health,' £10; Mrs. Harverson, £1/1/0; A member per Miss S. Pankhurst, 2/-; Per Miss Hudson, 4/8; James Leakey, Esq., 15/-; Misses Allen Browne, 10/-.

MAT MAKING.

Dear Editor,

We should like to tell the readers of the *Woman's Dreadnought* about mat making and the looms it is done on.

The looms are made of iron and wood, best part consisting of iron. At the back of the loom there is a roller with yarn wound round it. This yarn is called the chain. Then there is the harness, which is a kind of frame made of four thick sticks of wood with eyeholes. Through these eyeholes threads of the yarn chain are threaded into an iron grating which is called a reed. Then the chain is tied to an iron bolt and the loom ready for making the mats. All this is done by the foreman.

Before we start, we have to go to another shop, which is called the winding shop, and ask for the yarn which the mats are to be made of. This is a different kind of yarn from the chain.

When starting a mat we do the nettling on, which is threading a piece of yarn through the yarn chain. Each row of nettling is done with a separate piece of yarn which is banged up with a banger that is fixed on the reed, and then cut off. Then we have a steel rod, over which we wind the yarn, and after about an hour and a-half's continued wind the mat is nettled off the same as the beginning, then it is finished.

Before these yarn mats can be made we have to buy all our own tools, which consist of:—

Rag, which is made of white linen that we buy at a rag shop, and wax which is like tar and is bought at a leather shop. We wrap the waxed rag round our fingers to keep the yarn from cutting them. Then there is a knife that costs 5d., and stone for sharpening it 1d., measuring tape 1d., brush 1d., and fat 2½d. half-pound. The fat is used for the yarn chain; we use half-pound a week. The brush is used to put the fat on with.

The prices for mats vary according to their size and the quality of the yarn used. They run from about 2s. 4d. a dozen to 9s. This is the cheapest quality. A mat that we get 4½d. for making is sold in the shops for 5s. 6d.

Fibre mats are made differently. Before the fibre can be used it has to be pulled to pieces and put through a machine which is called a devil. A man does this, and there is a boy behind the machine filling the sacks ready for the girls to carry away to use.

Mat making is hard work and we often get our hands badly cut.

Then working hard all day we cannot see the time because the face of the clock is blacked over.

Yours truly,
TWO MAT MAKERS,
Who are members of the E.L.F.S.

NOTICE TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

The following information is issued by the War Office respecting separation allowances for wives and children of soldiers, mobilised reservists (including special reservists), members of the Territorial Force called up for active service, and civilians enlisted for temporary service during war:—

Daily allowance to wives and children.

	s.	d.
Warrant Officers	2	3
Quartermaster Sergeants, & equivalent ranks	2	2
Colour Sergeants...	1	4
Sergeants, Corporals, and Privates	**1**	**1**

6d. a day increase for families who were living in the London postal area on the date of mobilisation, and who continue to live there.

Children of any of above, boys under 14, and girls under 16, each 2d.

When the soldier's child is motherless, 4d. each child.

First payment to families as soon as possible after men rejoin, later payments on first of each month, in advance.

This money is in addition to any remittance of pay the soldier may make.

Soldiers can assign all their pay to their wives, if abroad, but only half if at home, having to post the rest themselves if they wish.

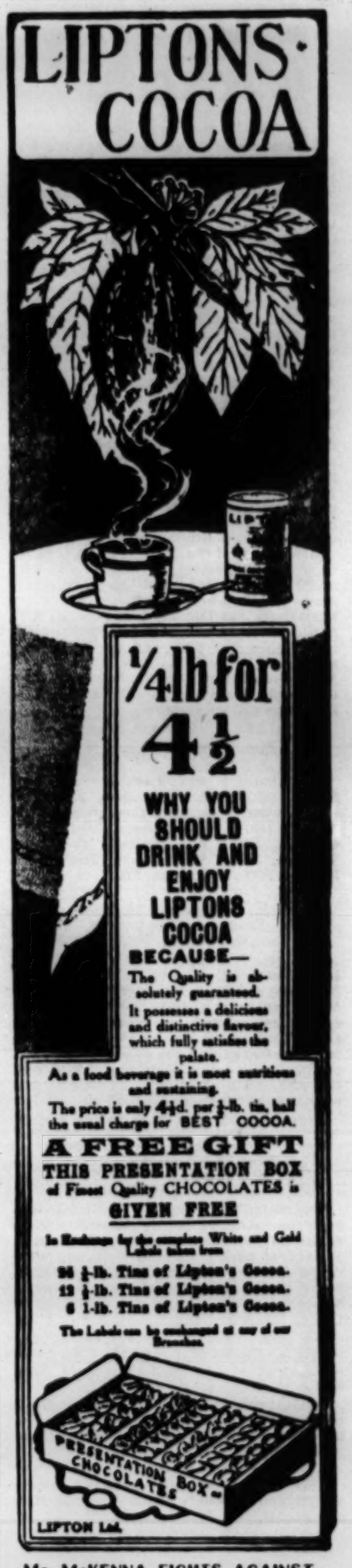
Families of Reservists should apply for pay to the Army Paymaster of their husband's regiment.

Many men were called up without receiving the first month's pay, which was due on mobilisation and others had not time to send it to their families. Many of the wives and children are therefore left destitute.

German local authorities have been given power to fix maximum prices of food, fuel, and other necessaries, and to compel the sale of all stocks of necessaries which the owners do not require for themselves.

Why have English new laid eggs gone up to 2s. 6d. and 3s. a dozen? Surely the English hens have not gone on strike

BOARD RESIDENCE.—Paying Guests taken at charming house, with large garden. Close to Woodford Green.—Apply "Box 100," Women's Hall, Bow, E.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WHY YOU SHOULD DRINK AND ENJOY LIPTONS COCOA
BECAUSE—
The Quality is absolutely guaranteed.
It possesses a delicious and distinctive flavour, which fully satisfies the palate.
As a food beverage it is most nutritious and sustaining.
The price is only 4½d. per ½-lb. tin, half the usual charge for BEST COCOA.
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THIS PRESENTATION BOX of Finest Quality CHOCOLATES is GIVEN FREE
In Exchange for the complete White and Gold Labels taken from
24 ½-lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa.
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6 1-lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa.
The Labels can be exchanged at any of our Branches.
PRESENTATION BOX OF CHOCOLATES
LIPTON Ltd.

Mr. McKENNA FIGHTS AGAINST VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Mr. McKenna has refused to allow the London 'buses to display posters advertising the meek and law-abiding National Union of Suffrage Societies and the militant newspaper, the *Suffragette*. He says he has done so because they are political, but what about the Tory *Standard*, posters of which have been shown on the 'buses for months past? A poster dealing with infant mortality, published by the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, has been banned from the tubes and underground railway stations.

WOMEN FIGHT.

The women of Herstal, near Verviers, 20 miles south-east of Liege, fought to protect from the Germans the National Fire Arms Factory, at which many of them are employed. They used the guns of the Factory against the Uhlans with splendid courage and much success. When their ammunition was exhausted they met the charge with swords, and when at last these were struck from their hands they barricaded themselves in the houses, and threw boiling water down upon the troops. The German soldiers eventually fell back and left the Belgian flag still flying—the women had won.

It is reported from Bale that Marie Favre, a Frenchwoman, attempted to blow up a bridge at Leopoldshoehe, the German army headquarters, three miles north of Balse, and was shot dead.

A. E. WAKEFIELD, 259 Old Ford Road, Grocer.—General Stores.—Goods of best quality. Clubs held.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. Ives.
Mrs. Bouvier, *pro. tem.*
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Several street corner meetings were held during the week addressed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mrs. Bouvier. Large and interested crowd listened to Miss Smyth and Mrs. Bouvier in Victoria Park on Sunday afternoon, when the *Woman's Dreadnought* found a ready sale. On Sunday evening the Women's Hall was packed with men and women who greatly appreciated Miss S. Pankhurst's and Mrs. Drake's fine speeches dealing with the hardships caused by the war, and calling upon the Government to take over the food supplies, and to take the working women into their councils. Mrs. Bouvier who was in the chair, said that it was the duty of the Government to release, unconditionally the splendid women who were suffering imprisonment and torture for a principle and a great cause. Thanks are due to canvassers, paper-sellers, and helpers at the stall. It is most important, just at present, to keep up the circulation of our paper, and an appeal is made to members to give regular help at the stall on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 to 1 o'clock, and in the evening from 6 till 10 or later. Even one hour's help is of the greatest value. Paper-sellers and canvassers are welcome any day at 321 Roman Road, and the Organiser is ready to go out with members who are new to the work, but Tuesday is the special work parties' day and members are asked to come to the shop at 3 p.m., and also to support speakers in Victoria Park on Sundays. More *Dreadnought* distributors are needed to take the place of those who are away or ill. Who will volunteer?

Central 296. Bow and Bromley 248.

Mrs. Payne	63
Mrs. Connell	100

Distributed: Mrs. Lansbury and Mrs. Savoy, 500; Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. Mc. Cheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 150; Mrs. Weaver, 200; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Husted, 200; Mrs. Watkins, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 50.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss Young,
100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E.

Very good meetings held at Swiss Cottage, Lauriston Road, on Monday night, and at 30 Churchill Road, on Tuesday afternoon. Miss Pankhurst's visit was very much appreciated. There is a great deal of work to be done in the way of canvassing, distributing and selling the *Dreadnought*, and offers of help will be welcomed. Will anyone who is willing to give any time to this work, please communicate with me.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 8, 27.

POPLAR.

Organiser—Miss Mary Paterson.
Office—319 East India Dock Road.

The meetings throughout the week have been successful, especially the street corner series on Saturday afternoon, when Miss Pankhurst paid a surprise visit, and went round speaking from the *Dreadnought* cart. Many papers also were sold and back numbers given away. Selling was continued in Chrisp Street at night.

We must make up another selling and speaking party for next Saturday. Members should meet at 319 East India Dock Road at 3 p.m.

Will members please make a special effort to work up the *Dreadnought* sales? We need the paper more than ever to help us in present crisis.

OUTING.

The "Outing" balance sheet has now been issued, and is on view at the offices in Bow and Poplar.

Dreadnoughts sold fortnight ending Aug. 9th—220.

Mrs. Bird	61
Miss Cross	78
Miss Long	72

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Members' meetings every Tuesday 8.30 p.m., at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road. Subscriptions 3d. and 1d. a week. A special campaign of open-air meetings on Wednesday and Friday nights to demand that the Government take over the food supply and give votes to women; also on the "No Rent" Strike. The R.S.P.U. has written to Mr. Keir Hardie, asking him to receive a deputation on the cost of food.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.

Hon. Organiser: Rev. C. A. Wills, B.A.
188 Devons Road, Bow, E.

Members are requested to rally round in good numbers to protect "No Rent" strikers.

EAST AND WEST HAM POOR CHILDREN'S OUTING.

At a Special Summoned Meeting of the Committee of the above, it was unanimously agreed that owing to the grave crisis through which the Country is passing, that the outing for this year be abandoned, and the cash in hand be used to alleviate the distress that is bound to occur in these parishes. Any further subscriptions will be gratefully received and acknowleged by—

ERNEST H. WILLIAMS,
The "Coliseum," *Hon. Secretary.*
Green Street, Upton Park.

APPEAL TO SUFFRAGISTS

The following letter appeared in the *Evening Standard* of Aug. 11th:

Sir,—Now is the moment for the Suffragists to prove their worth. Let them defend their country, guard the stores, nurse the sick and wounded, help the poor.

There are many brilliant women among them who can suggest work I cannot think of. Only let them do something big for the good of their country, and gain the admiration of the world and the love of the people, and eventually they may get the vote.

R. MOSS VERNON.

The writer of this letter evidently forgets that such a person as Florence Nightingale ever existed. Our readers will remember that in the Crimean War Florence Nightingale played a tremendous part. When she landed at Scutari in 1854 she found that the sick and wounded, who had been brought in boat-loads from the Crimea, were crowded together with hardly a change of clothing, without medicines and without food. Scandalous jobbery had been practised in the placing of army contracts. Both the stores and clothes were in a disgraceful condition: bad meat had been packed in tins for the soldiers to eat, and many dozens of odd shoes had been sent out for the soldiers to wear. Rats infested the wards of the Scutari hospital and ran with impunity amongst the living and the dead. Before she got at the medicine for the sick and wounded, Florence Nightingale had to break doors open with a hatchet. In six weeks after Florence Nightingale's arrival, 8,000 patients were sent to the Scutari hospital. So insanitary was the place when she first came that many died merely through breathing its air.

During the first six months of the war the death rate had been at the rate of 60 per cent. of the entire army; during the last six months of it the soldiers were in better health than those at home. All this was due to Florence Nightingale's wonderful work. She not only effected an entire re-organisation of the nursing of the sick and wounded, but she revolutionised the management of the stores department. She saved the Government of the time from eternal disgrace; yet when the same Government next dealt with the franchise question, they decided that whilst a man criminal should be entitled to regain his vote as soon as he had served his sentence, no British woman should excercise the vote on any terms whatsoever.

Let us see to it that this shall not happen again.

ECHOES OF THE DEPUTATION.

The Anti-Suffrage Review, in its July number, makes bitter but very feeble complaint, because Mr. Asquith received the East London deputation. They say that when he admitted the women to his august presence Mr. Asquith was labouring under the false impression that they were not militant; yet, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes seem to be quite successful in keeping the London police busy. *The Anti-Suffrage Review* tries to belittle the statements made by the members of the deputation, saying: "It is possible that instances of 'adult women earning 7s. or 8s. for a full week's work' were known to the deputation, for there must be even more tragic cases than that, but Votes for Women will not affect individual cases of hardship, and we have yet to learn that those ill-paid workers would prefer to receive nothing at all as the result of the fixing of a universal wage for which they might not be able to qualify." Remarks of this kind amount to nothing and consist of absolute nonsense. We must assure the writer of the paragraph that there are not merely a few individual cases of adult women earning 7s. or 8s. for a full week's work, but that many thousands of women are in this unfortunate position. If a sufficient number of voters will combine to abolish this state of affairs it can be done, and women should have the right to the power to combine in using their votes for this object. We agree that these ill-paid workers are obliged to prefer small wages to no wages at all, because they cannot exist on nothing; but we insist that every woman worker is entitled to a living wage.

On Monday, August, 10th a large deputation of E. L. F. S. members from Bow and Poplar went down to interview Members of Parliament to urge that the food supply should be immediately controlled by the Government in the interests of all the people, and to urge that the vote should be given to women without further delay. A larger deputation is being organised for Tuesday, August 25th, and those who can take part in this deputation should communicate with Miss Sylvia Pankhurst at Old Ford Road without delay.

WHY DON'T THEY GO INTO SERVICE.

"An East End incumbent, whose parish abounds with the class of girls who serve in tea-shops and factories," writes to the *Church Times* in reply to those who declare that the problem of women's sweated labour would be disposed of if every workman's daughter would become a domestic servant.

He says: "The preference for factory work over domestic service is not always dictated by the desire for free evenings, etc. Often there is the necessity of living all together and bringing all the wages into the common stock, especially where the father is dead, or is a casual worker often out of employment.

"But with regard to the 'liberty' of which 'H' speaks so contemptously, it is not always desired for the mere purpose of being free for amusement. Even if it were, is it any more reprehensible than the conduct of so many girls of the better classes whose evenings, and often days too, are spent in endless amusements?

"But in our East-end parishes these business and factory girls are usually our most—often our only—Churchworkers. Let me give an instance. Three girls, one a tea-labeller, two dressmakers in a West-end house, live with two brothers in my parish, and support their widowed mother, who is their housekeeper. All three work in our Sunday schools. The eldest also plays the hymns, and is a fair pianist. The second is superintendent of our infant school under modern arrangements, and a most efficient one she makes. Their evenings are not spent at the cheap entertainment or in the street, but often at our girls' club, where the eldest plays for the dancing, etc. These two elder ones have also attended the evening lectures under the auspices of the Bishop of London's Sunday School Council, and, generally, by their entirely admirable conduct and example, as well as by their definite work, are doing most valuable service to God and their fellows.

"But if these girls were in domestic service they could do none of these things. Who ever heard of domestic servants being allowed to do such work as this? For several years I had a young woman's class on Sunday afternoons, attended by some 20 or 30 of these girls. One domestic servant—brought, I may say, by the tea-labeller—came for a short time, but she could only attend once a fortnight, because she was only 'allowed out' alternate Sunday afternoons.

"So that perhaps the desire for evenings and for 'liberty' is not always unreasonable or wholly harmful. Is not domestic service a somewhat dwarfing and stunting kind of life? Has not a young woman of the working classes the right to make the most of her life and of the gifts which God has given her? Can she do this in domestic service?

"And 'H' speaks of temptations. Is domestic service always the safe and secure retreat that it is usually looked upon as being? I have no statistics available, but I fancy that the percentage of fallen girls who have been in domestic service is not quite so low as is often supposed."

EAST LONDON.

[Registrars of Births testify that the vast majority of the illegitimate babies born are the children of young domestic servants.—Editor of the *Woman's Dreadnought*.]

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME?

We are for ever being told that the place of woman is in the HOME. Well, so be it. But what do you expect of her in the home? Merely to stay in the home is not enough. She is a failure unless she does certain things for the home. She must make the home minister, as far as her means allow, to the health and welfare, moral as well as physical, of her family, and especially of her children. She, more than anyone else, is held responsible for what they become.

SHE is responsible for the cleanliness of her house.

SHE is responsible for the wholesomeness of the food.

SHE is responsible for the children's health.

SHE, above all, is responsible for their morals, for their sense of truth, of honesty and of decency, for what they turn out to be.

HOW FAR CAN THE MOTHER CONTROL THESE THINGS?

She can clean her own rooms, BUT if the neighbours are allowed to live in filth, she cannot keep her rooms from being filled with bad airs and smells, or from being infested by vermin.

She can cook her food well, BUT if dealers are permitted to sell poor food, unclean milk or stale eggs, she cannot make the food wholesome for her children.

She can care for her own plumbing and her refuse, BUT if the plumbing in the rest of the house is unsanitary, if garbage accumulates and the halls and stairs of flats and tenements are lett dirty, she cannot protect her children from the sickness and infection that these conditions bring.

She can take every care to avoid fire, BUT if the house has been badly built, if the fire-escapes are insufficient or defective, she cannot guard her children from being maimed or killed by fire.

She can open her windows to give her children the air that we are told is so necessary, BUT if the air is laden with infection, with tuberculosis and other contagious diseases, she cannot protect her children from this danger.

She can send her children out for air and exercise, but if the conditions that surround them on the streets are immoral and degrading, she cannot protect them from these dangers.

ALONE, she CANNOT make these things right, WHO or WHAT can?

THE GOVERNMENT can do it—the GOVERNMENT that is elected BY THE PEOPLE, to take care of the interests OF THE PEOPLE.

And who decides what the Government shall do?

FIRST, the officials of that Government; and

SECOND, those who elect them.

DO the WOMEN ELECT THEM? NO, the men do. So it is the MEN and NOT THE WOMEN that are really responsible for the

UNCLEAN HOUSES
BAD PLUMBING
UNWHOLESOME FOOD
DANGER OF FIRE
RISK OF TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES
IMMORAL INFLUENCES OF THE STREET

In fact, MEN are responsible for the conditions under which the children live, but we hold WOMEN responsible for the results of those conditions. If we hold women responsible for the results, must we not, in simple justice, let them have something to say as to what these conditions shall be? There is one simple way of doing this. Give them the same means that men have. LET THEM VOTE.

Women are, by nature and training, housekeepers. Let them have a hand in the Nation's housekeeping, even if they introduce an occasional house-cleaning.

This is a copy of a leaflet that American women are distributing in their campaign for the vote. They have already succeeded in winning the vote in eleven states and are doing good work with it.

All the arguments they use apply to women in this country also. We need the vote just as much as they do, and are capable of making just as wise a use of it.

If you believe in Votes for Women and want a vote for yourself, join the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

TO COOK AND WASH AND SEW.

To cook and wash and sew, that's all my lot
It's all that I can do, day in day out
As time runs into weeks, and months and years
That's all my life—there isn't any more
Yes, there was love. It came just like a flower,
With trembling grew and stirred the depths of me.
He tired first and then my heart went cold,
The longing died, for him to come o'nights
The children! Yes, but they're at school or play.
No time for me. The little ones were best,
When I could bath and hush them off to sleep,
They'd put their pretty arms about me then.
Now they're too big and p'raps I've grown too sharp.
I'm tired with work and all they want's their food.
Often there isn't very much of that.
I don't complain, there's others live like me
But sometimes of an evening, when sun sets,
On Sundays after tea and I'm alone
I don't know how it happens—p'raps the sun,
That seems to draw me, as I sit and look—
A thought comes over me, why should it be?
Why should life be so hard and I so tired?
Why should I be so ignorant and dull
With never time to let my poor soul grow?
And I could think I'd got the strength to change.
I never op'n a book, my eyes too dim,
I scarce can write my name for lack of use
But thoughts all melting gold flash in my brain
Great men and women dressed in angel's clothes,
Flowers and fields and little baby things,
Water and sun and words too fine for me,
All of a stream. If I could write them down,
Or think to say them after it was gone!
It almost seems that I could sing out free,
So loud and grand that it would wake the stars.
Just foolish thoughts that go and leave me cold
The world's soon real again and work comes round,
Suppers to get and washing-up to do
And children's Sunday clothes to put away.
Just foolish thoughts that make my poor heart long
Just foolish thoughts, but yet why should it be?

MARTHA WATT.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.